



The Canal Zone Philatelist



Vol. 35, No. 1

First Quarter, 1999

Whole No. 130

Vice-President's Report

Richard H. Salz

60-27th Avenue,

San Francisco, CA 94121

Fate has spared me the task of writing the veep message, and I wish to thank the CZSG member who has submitted his thoughts regarding what CZ philately might have been. Hope you enjoy the witty column below:

"It has been more than two decades since the Canal Zone Postal Service issued its last stamp (Scott #165, the 15¢ Towing Locomotive October 25, 1978). What might have been the output of postal issues during the intervening years if the Canal Zone as we knew it were still in business?

"While the issuing policies of the old CZPS were among the most conservative in the world (what other country or territory used some of the same basic definitive stamps for fifty years!), would even that stodgy administration have been able to hold back the tide of philatelic excess? Look no further than our own beloved US Postal Service with its endless commemoratives, topically oriented multiple design sheets and booklets, commemorative stationery items

(Continued on page 6)

Reminder 1999 Mail Sale

Consignments for the 28th CZSG Mail Sale should be sent to arrive no later than July 5, 1999. Certificates are required for Scott 1st Issue and #15. An inventory must accompany all consignments. Damaged, soiled, or poorly centered copies of lower value stamps as well as ratty covers are respectfully declined and will be returned to the vendor. Ship material insured or registered. The sale will close in late September.

Please send material to Richard H. Salz, 60-27th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94121-1026.

4th Alignment Variety in Type II Official Overprints Plated

by Paul F. Ammons

Canal Zone Stamps (CZS) describes three alignment varieties in the Type II official overprints used to create Scott #s O3, CO1-7, and CO14. Only one of these varieties is illustrated in CZS. I have recently discovered and plated a fourth Type II alignment variety now known to exist on at least three values: the 10¢ CO2, the \$1 CO7, and the 6¢ CO14. Additional research must be conducted to determine the printing(s) to which this new alignment variety can be attributed.

All of the stamps receiving the Type II Official overprint except the 6¢ CO14 are known to exist with the easily identified O of OFFICIAL over the N of PANAMA variety from positions 11 through 15 of the three 1942 printings and possibly the one 1943 and two 1944 printings. This variety is illustrated by the lower overprint proof in Fig. 18.5. on page 251 of CZS.

All of these stamps except the 6¢ CO14 are also known to exist with the less easily identified O of OFFICIAL over the 2nd A of PANAMA variety from position 17 of the same printings attributed to the O over N variety. All of these stamps except the 5¢ CO3 are also known to exist with this same variety from position 45 of the 1947 printing and continuing at least through the 1950 printing. This variety is not illustrated in CZS, but is shown in CZP 128:28.

CO1-7 and CO14 are also known to exist with the relatively easy to identify 1st F of OFFICIAL over 2nd A of PANAMA variety from position 50 of the same panes with the second, position 45, O/A variety. Again, this variety is not illustrated in CZS, but is shown in CZP 120:28.

The recently discovered and plated alignment variety is from position 30 of only some of the panes which also contain the position 50, F/A and position 45, O/A varieties. I would like to call this new alignment variety L of OFFICIAL over 1st A of CANAL.

The "normal" alignment depicted in Fig. 1 and illustrated by the top overprint proof, Fig. 18.5, on page 251 of CZS is found on the vast majority of stamps receiving the Type II overprint.

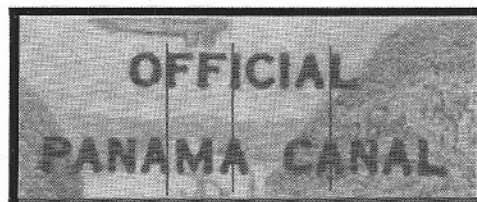


Fig. 1. Type II OP, "normal" alignment.

(Continued on page 4)

Meeting Notice

CZSG regional meeting at WESTPEX '99, Cathedral Hill Hotel, Van Ness at Geary, San Francisco, April 16-18, 1999. The CZSG MEETING will be on Saturday, April 17, at 1 p.m. An interesting and unusual program is planned. Bring your "show and tell" and any items you wish expertized. Your president and vice-president will be in attendance. Check your program for meeting room.

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The Canal Zone Philatelist

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The Canal Zone Philatelist (ISSN 0746-004 X) is published quarterly for \$8.00 per year (which includes membership in the Canal Zone Study Group) by Canal Zone Study Group, 1749 W. Sauvignon Dr., Tucson, AZ 85746. Periodicals Postage Paid at Tucson, AZ. POSTMASTER: Send address changes and complaints of non-delivery to *Canal Zone Philatelist*, c/o Secretary John C. Smith, 408 Redwood Lane, Schaumburg, IL 60193.

Display advertising accepted from CZSG members only at the following rates per insertion:

One column, two inches	\$10.00
One column, five inches	20.00
Two columns, five inches	35.00

No larger advertisements are accepted. Remittance must accompany copy. Deadline for ads, first day of Mar., June, Sept., Dec. Copy should be sent to the Editor.

Back issues of the journal, handbooks, and other publications can be ordered from Richard F. Murphy, 501 Rosebud Lane, Greer, SC 29650.

Articles and information for publication should be sent to the Editor. Glossy photographs are desirable for figures of stamps or covers; however, enlarged high quality photocopies are sometimes acceptable. Illustrations must show clearly against black backgrounds. If you need help, write, phone, FAX or E-mail the Editor. The author must advise the Editor if the article has been published or is being considered for publication elsewhere.

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Canal Zone Study Group

*Do you have unusual
Canal Zone?*

Write the Editor!

We Need Authors!

Wrong Cover Booklets (CZSG 32c.6.)

By Richard F. Larkin

In 1911 the Canal Zone Post Office introduced locally made booklets. A few of these inadvertently had the wrong covers, indicating 1¢ stamps rather than the 2¢ stamps actually contained therein. *Canal Zone Stamps* (Plass, Brewster and Salz), starting on page 268, in the "Booklet Panes and Booklets section" describes the following:

"There is an error of the 4-pane 2¢ booklet of the second issue that has the cover printed for a 1¢ booklet, CZSG No. 32c.6. The booklet contains four 2¢ booklet panes and has the normal salmon color cover stock but the printing on the cover is for a 1¢ booklet containing four 1¢ booklet panes! Apparently a few 1¢ covers were printed on salmon colored stock by error. Since the denomination of the stamps in the booklets was supposed to be readily identifiable by the color of the cover stock alone, the postal employees assembling the booklets did not take time to read the cover. They inserted 2¢ stamps, which were correct for the color scheme then in use."

The 1931 Frank Marquis sale catalog of the Coveleski collection notes: "Five of these booklets were sold at the Ancon P.O. before the error was discovered and the booklet called in. The clerk Mr. Geo. Backer, who furnished this information, was obliged to make up for the loss."



Fig. 1. CZSG 32c, Wrong Cover Booklet.

Indeed the purchasers got a good price, considering that examples of these booklets have sold for as much as \$3,500 - not a bad return on a 25¢ investment, even allowing for inflation since 1912! The last sentence intrigued me, however, and I wondered just how many were made, and how many still survive. It would seem likely that most of the ones made have survived, as the error would be immediately apparent to any collector who gave

the booklet more than a casual glance, or to anyone who actually started to use the stamps from one of the booklets they had purchased.

As described on page 264 of *Canal Zone Stamps*, these booklets were made by assembling locally printed front and back cover sheets, with regular post office panes of 100 stamps and interleaving between. The booklets were then stitched together along the edge of the "package". The assembly was then separated by use of a paper knife into 14 booklets - four in the horizontal or "squatty" format, and ten in the vertical or "long" format and leaving the central block of 16 "booklet pane waste" which was sold over the counter. The illustrations on pages 264 and 265 of CZS (Fig. 1 and Fig. 2) illustrate the configuration and how this was done. Thus, the total number of booklets originally produced would have been some multiple of 14 (14, 28, 42, etc.). Note, some details of the sheet of covers pictured on page 264 differ from those of the sheets used to make the error booklets. The short lines appearing at the left between each adjacent pair of covers were extended the full length of each cover, and other minor changes in the orientation of the dials, and in the printing were made.

A survey of known examples was conducted among many collectors, auction catalogues and my own holdings. A request through the *CZ Philatelist* solicited four replies which provided important/valuable information. The resulting list includes both complete booklets, and loose front covers (which are easily identifiable by their salmon color combined with the "1¢" printing.)

To insure that the same item was not counted more than once, there was an attempt made to obtain photographs or photocopies of as many of the front covers as possible. Fortunately, because the cover printing process was fairly crude, there are many aspects of the covers that vary from item to item, and can be used to uniquely identify each example (see Figs. 2, 3). Also, as shown on page 265 of CZS, the selvage of the panes in some positions contains text or other markings that can help place the location of the panes on the sheet (pane positions A, B,...N) from which they were cut.



Fig. 2. CZSG 32c, Dial tills to left.

(Continued on next page)

Following are the criteria used to identify each booklet or cover:

Criteria	Attribute
Orientation of booklet on sheet	Horizontal or vertical
"Tilt" of the "dial" at the left of the cover	Right or left - about 5 to 10 degrees
Position of the stamps in the booklet	Pane position A - J (p. 264 of CZS)
Whether the panes are stuck to the interleaving	
The location of any horizontal line(s) at the top or bottom edges of the cover	Top - left or right; bottom - left or right; entire width of cover
"Broken" letters or other parts of the printing:	W of Twenty (right stem)
(Other broken letters exist, but the ones listed are the most visible and consistently found.)	B of Book (top)
	M of System (left stem)
	1st S of System (bottom)
	Inner circle of dial, at about 6 o'clock

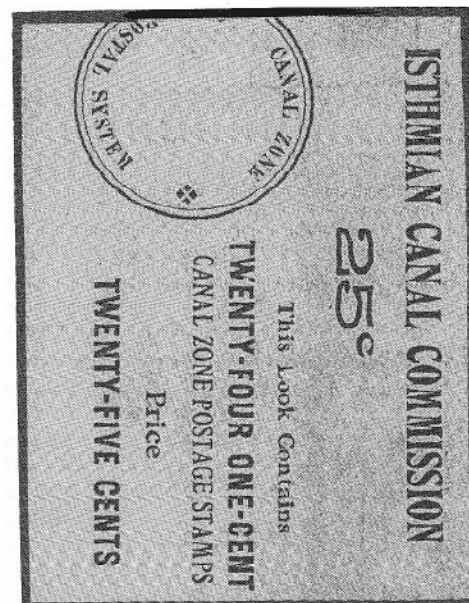


Fig. 3. CZSG 32.c, broken letters: B of Book, W of TWENTY, M, S of System.

Results

23 different examples of these booklets were identified. A summary follows:

CANAL ZONE SALMON 1c ERROR BOOKLETS - LIST

#.	Position (one of:)	H/ V	Dial Tilt	Sold by - Sale	Lot #	Date	\$	Pho- to	Break in: (sm = small)					Horiz. Line(s)	Panee Stuck	Tally by H/V type & dial tilt			
									W	B	M	S	Dial			HL	HR	VL	VR
1	L	V	R	Stilwell	PT	5-73	450	x	x	x	x			T	Y				x
2		H	L	Danam	2140	10-77	2100	x								x			
3				Fox	920	5-78													
4	F	H		Quality	PT	7-76	1850										?		
5				Kaufman		1979	1050												
6	JKMN	V	R	Fox	3034	3-90	2310	x		sm				T	N				x
7	A	V	R	Ivy - Plass Cherrystone	526 3312	7-93 9-95	2200 2640	x		x	x	x	x	TL, BR	N				x
8	CL	V	R	Fox CZSG CZSG	1819 117 116	5-90 9-91 9-98	1400 2000 1250	x	x	x	x			T	N				x
9	B	V	L	Fox - Joyce	1181	7-91	2200	x						TL, BR	N			x	
10	I	H	L	Fox - Joyce	1182	7-91	2310	x							N	x			
11	JKLMN	V	R	Fox - Joyce Suburban	1183 932	7-91 9-93	2200	x		x	x	x	x	BL	N				x
12	A	V	R	Fox - Joyce	2023	12-91	800 ^a	x	x					TL, BR	Y				x
13	JKLMN	V	L	Fox - Joyce	2024	12-91	1375	x						T	N			x	
14	ABCDE	V	L	Harmer Shreve-Helme	527 1122	11-88 11-96	1050	x						T	Y			x	
15				Mozian- Brooks	269	6-73	180								N				
16	M/B	V		Fox	908	6-80									N				
17	H	H			PT	1970	2500										?		
18	E	V	R	Schiff		11-91	1045	x	x	sm	x				N				x
19	B	V	L		Gift	1950	--	x						T				x	
20	JKLMN	V	R	Shreve-Helme Shreve	1124 908	11-96 3-98	900	x	x	x	x	x		T	Y				x
21	ABCDE	V	R	Shreve-Helme	1123	11-96	900	x	x	sm	x	x		TR, BL	Y				x
22	JKMN	V	R	ex-Mozian	PT	11-96	3500	x	x		x	x			N				x
23	C	V	R	Cherrystone	3085	8-97	2500	x	x	x	x	x		T	Y				x
Covers																			
C1		V	R	Quality	List	9-79	150	x						T, B	-				x
C2		V	R			1994		x	x	x				TL, BR	-				x
C3		V	R	ex-Helme		1996		x		sm	x	x		TR, B	-				x
C4		V	L	Armstrong		9-98	100 ^b	x						TR, BL	-			x	

Notes: Position = pane position as shown in CZ Stamps Pg. 264. PT = Private Treaty 2 & 4 are said to be ex-Conger (poss. same?)

a - Front cover broken off. b - Allocated part of price for one pane and the cover - total \$700

(Continued on page 6)

4th Alignment Variety

(Continued from page 1)

"Normally", the 1st I in OFFICIAL is centered over the 3rd A in PANAMA, there is no overlap between the 1st F in OFFICIAL and the 2nd A in PANAMA, and there is some overlap between the O of OFFICIAL and the N of PANAMA.

Fig. 2 depicts the position 17 and position 45, O/A varieties that are indistinguishable as singles. The 1st I in OFFICIAL is offset to the right of the 3rd A in PANAMA by a distance equivalent to one "I". In this variety, there is no overlap between the O of OFFICIAL and the N of PANAMA.

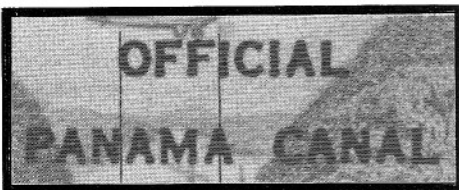


Fig. 2. Type II OP, pos. 17, 45 O/A.

Fig. 3 depicts the position 50, F/A variety. Here, the 1st I in OFFICIAL is offset to the left of the 3rd A in PANAMA by a distance equivalent to two "I"s.

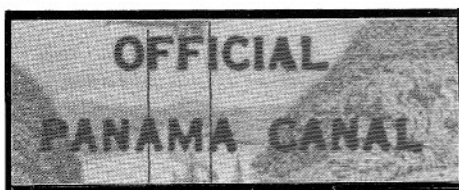


Fig. 3. Type II OP, pos. 50 F/A.

In this variety, the vertical stroke of the 1st F in OFFICIAL is centered over the 2nd A in PANAMA.

In the newly discovered L/A variety depicted in Fig. 4, the 1st I in OFFICIAL is offset to the left of the 3rd A in PANAMA by a distance equivalent to one "I". In this variety, the vertical stroke of L of OFFICIAL is centered over the 1st A in CANAL.

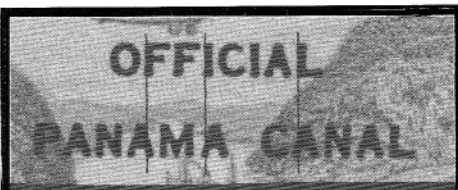


Fig. 4. Type II OP, pos. 30 L/A.

I have been able to examine intact post office panes of CO1-7 and CO14, including two panes each of CO1, CO4, and CO14, all of which have the O/A and F/A alignment varieties. Only the unused 10¢ CO2 unused \$1 CO7, and the two unused 6¢ CO14 panes have the position 30, L/A variety. These four panes also differ from the others based on plated broken letter varieties. An unused CO2 single, an unused CO7 single, an unused CO14 single, and an unused CO14 block of four also have been found with the L/A variety. With this very limited information, there might be a "rush to judgement" that this is a relatively scarce variety attributed solely to the 1950 printing. However, much more research must be done.

To better determine to which printings this new alignment variety owes its existence, I would like to correspond with anyone who has single stamps, multiples, or covers with the L/A alignment variety. Additionally, in order to expand a broken letter plating study already underway, I would like to correspond with any collector or dealer who has an intact CTO or unused official air mail pane. Please forward information to the Editor.

ARIPEX 1999 Report

A couple of late illness scratches limited the CZSG member body count to seven at the regional meeting in Tucson, AZ Jan. 23.

Nonetheless, a lively 50 minute meeting ensued. Potential publication by CZSG of new works was reviewed with studies of Canal Zone postal rates, a precancels update, a compilation on booklet panes with varieties and prices, plus a modernization of the Check List from *Canal Zone Stamps* taking up the bulk of the conference. The possibility of putting a couple of our comrades' Gold Medal winning exhibits onto disk or hard copy for the membership also came up.

"Show 'n tell" followed with sharing by the group of recent acquisitions both from the show and other sources. The topics included cancellation proofs and obscure postal rates; more questions were raised than answered.

We will be back next year in Mesa, AZ.

Jim Crumpacker

Canal Zone Military Secrets by Steven J. Turechek, Major, USAF

In late August 1939, the world stood on the brink of war. The United States, ill-prepared and unwilling to engage in direct confrontation, nevertheless began to move troops and equipment to protect our most important overseas asset, the Panama Canal. The cover pictured in Fig. 1, ties together bits of Canal Zone aerophilately with U.S. Army Air Corps history, and documents an early effort to defend the canal.

This cover is perhaps the most historically significant of an estimated 700 prepared by Air Corps Tech. Sgt. Paul Grossmann, a meticulous collector of air post covers¹. Grossmann routinely prepared covers which pilots from his squadron then flew in aerial events, such as air races, throughout the 1930s. In late August 1939, Grossmann's unit, the 94th Pursuit Squadron at Selfridge Field, Mount Clemens, Michigan, received orders to proceed to the Canal Zone. True to form, he prepared (at least) six covers to commemorate the event. The pilots would soon form the first overseas deployed squadron of America's hottest fighter, the Curtiss P-36 Hawk. Nothing less than the P-36 would have been appropriate for such a vital and vulnerable naval and commercial shipping choke point as the Panama Canal. (It is fair, however, to note that prior to September 1939, a number of obsolete military aircraft constituted a national air defense force within the Canal Zone.) Army Air Force records show "on 26 August the War Department informed the commanding general of the Panama Canal Department that 30 P-36s ... would be ferried to the Zone as soon as arrangements could be made²." According to the cover's cachet, on 30 August, more than two dozen planes and pilots of the 1st Pursuit Group departed Selfridge Field. Their destination, Albrook Field, lay nearly a week and a half away.

Deployment of fighter aircraft over long distances is fraught with uncertainty. Weather, fuel and maintenance problems can quickly lead to disaster. Data included on the cover's typewritten cachet sadly indicates that one plane and pilot were lost enroute. (The fatality was due to a storm, and two other aircraft were also forced down short of their destination³) Fortunately after more than 4,000 flying miles, the P-36 contingent arrived at Albrook Field near the Pacific coast, on the north (east) side of the canal without further incident. The date was 9 September 1939.

Grossmann was a stickler for detail, even including the tail number of the aircraft the cover was flown aboard as part of the cachet. The illustrated cover was flown by Air Corps Capt. John R. Hawkins.

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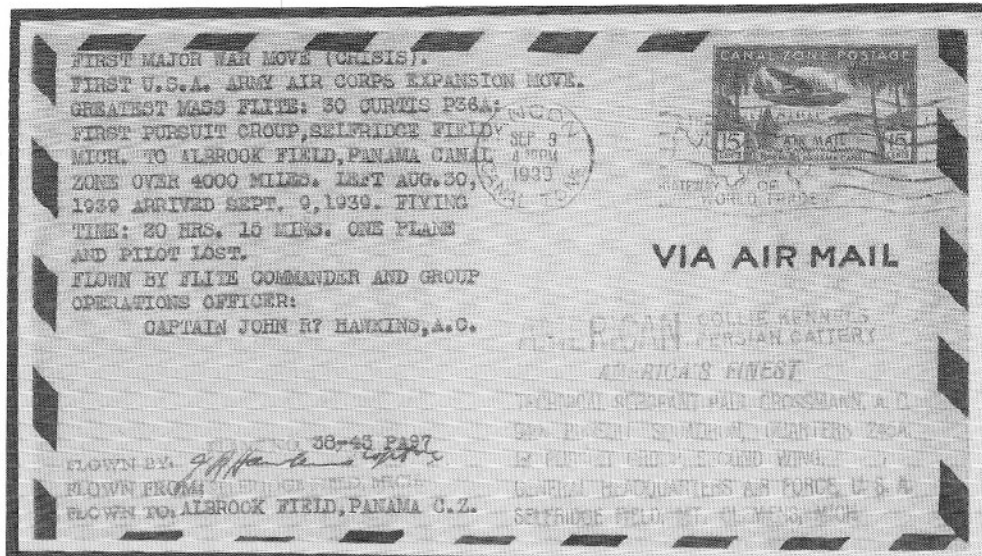


Fig. 1. Curtiss P36A flight cover: Selfridge Field Michigan to Albrook Field Canal Zone 1939.

After landing, Captain Hawkins took the cover to the Ancon post office, where a Canal Zone airmail stamp (C17) was probably applied, and then cancelled at 4:30pm that afternoon. The cover is sealed without content, and there is no backstamp, an indication the cover made its way back to Sergeant Grossmann outside the mails. Capt. Hawkins, the pilot who is shown in the accompanying photograph (Fig. 2), also signed the cover.

Researching this cover led me to the discovery of a document titled "Air Defense of the Panama Canal, 1 January 1939 - 7 December 1941". It was prepared by the Army Air Forces Historical Office (AAFHO) in 1946. (Thanks to the Freedom of Information Act, this document is available to the public⁴.) Originally classified "Secret", the document has long since been downgraded to its current "Unclassified" status. The document lays out a rich account of political and military preparations that began months before Grossmann prepared his covers and Hawkins flew them into history. The events leading up to Hawkins' flight are briefly described below.

In March 1939, a study was undertaken in the Canal Zone to determine how vulnerable installations were to aerial attack. How many enemy bombers it would take to put the canal out of operation, and how much damage could be wrought by various size bombs against those most vital elements of the canal in terms of marine traffic⁵? Results were startling: shipping in the canal could be halted for months, post attack, by as few as 24 enemy bombers⁶! It became clear to Air Corps planners that the best insurance against destruction lay in an air defense force capable of stopping any foreign intruders before they got within striking distance of the canal⁷. Ultimately thousands of men and countless tons of materiel, including 30 P-36 aircraft and Captain Hawkins, were sent to the Canal Zone to place the squadrons there on a war footing.

In closing, I cannot resist making one observation. One of the most common attributes of military plans and troop movements in anticipation of hostilities is that they are classified "secret." The entire AAFHO document, including the specific number of aircraft moved into the Canal Zone soon after World War II broke out, was classified "secret" and remained so for some years after the war. Yet this secret was openly recorded on the cover's cachet, a clear violation of good operational security procedures. Who knows how many people may have seen Grossmann's covers, thus becoming privy to this military secret, long before the Air Force declassified the 1946 historical account! If any other CZSG member has seen or owns a Grossmann-prepared cover similar in style, but with a different event relating to the Canal Zone, please write to the author in care of the CZP editor.

References:

1. Grossman's first aerophilatelic effort relating to the Canal Zone came in 1937, when he prepared covers to commemorate the flight of B-18 bombers from the CONUS to the CZ.
2. Army Air Forces Historical Studies, No. 42 "Air Defense of the Panama Canal, 1 January 1939 - 7 December 1941", compiled by Kathleen Williams, 1946, p. 204 n45.
3. *ibid.*, p. 204 n47
4. Contact the Archives Branch of the Air Force Historical Research Agency, 600 Chennault Circle, Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6424, phone (334) 953-7428 or fax request (334) 953-2396. Microfilm reel K1006.
5. *ibid.*, p. 29
6. *ibid.*, p. 30
7. *ibid.*, p. 30

Corrections

Irwin Gibbs, Postal Stationary Editor, forwarded the following correction to the ERD of U13 - UPSS 39 note in CZP 129: the cover on closer examination is a U13 - UPSS 35 and that ERD is July 20, 1932.

Special Auction Report by Jim Crumpacker

To celebrate their 50th anniversary in philately the Baltimore firm of Matthew Bennett, Inc.* ran a two day auction in mid-November. The sale included 119 lots of Canal Zone, nearly all of which were of outstanding quality and resulted in realizations pleasing to the consignors.

Some of the more interesting outcomes are shown below. Catalogue values from the 1998 Scott's Specialized are given in parenthesis after the prices realized, the 10% commission is included.

- 2a, CANAL ZONE inverted, VF on VF cover Ancon 7/9/04 to Colon \$715 (\$600+)
- 3a, CANAL ZONE inverted, a bent perf. o/w VF on VF sl. reduced cover Gorgona 7/11/04 to Culebra \$715 (\$600+)
- 10 var., "ON" of ZONE dropped, in margin bl. 4 with 3 normals, OG, H, F \$413 (\$287)
- 11, pane of 100, 85 OG, NH, F-VF, other 15 hinged or HR, \$495 (\$1068)

- 11b, PANAMA overprint inverted, bar at bottom, OG, H, VF+ margin copy \$413 (\$350)
- 14a, ZONE antique, OG, HR, F+ in pair with normal \$1155 (\$1028)
- 15, dull OG, H, VF+ \$2090 (\$3000)
- 22a, horiz. pair imperf. between, OG, H, XF \$935 (\$1250)
- 22f, double overprint, one inverted, a bl. of 4, OG, H, one stamp thin o/w VF \$3575 (\$5400)
- 22g, inverted center and overprint reading up, OG (sm. interl. adherence), H, VF \$2970 (\$3250)
- 23a, horiz. pair imperf. between, OG, H, XF \$1430 (\$1750)
- 24c, double overprint, from the 6.75mm spacing, CZSG 24c.II, OG, H, XF \$770 (\$450)
- 25a, horiz. pair imperf. between and at left margin, OG, H, barely F \$1760 (\$2000)
- 26a, double overprint, one reading up, OG, H, unnatural SE at left, small thin, VF centered \$2640 (\$3250)

- 40a, Cordoba portrait of 2¢ error, used, lt. toning spots and a couple of slightly short perfs., o/w VF \$8800 (\$8000)
 - 47, OG, NH, F \$1980 (\$3000)
 - 69 var., 24¢ value from unissued "Arms" set, CZSG 69.E, TG, H, F \$198 (\$250)
 - 71c, CANAL only, with top margin, in vert. pair with 71d, ZONE CANAL, OG, H, F \$1540 (\$2200)
 - 86a, ZONE ZONE, OG, error NH, VF center stamp in bl. 9 with 8 normals \$2750 (\$1132)
 - 91a, ZONE only, OG, H, F+ margin copy \$1045 (\$800)
 - J21a, POSTAGE DUE omitted, with bottom margin in vert. pair with CZSG J21.1 (split ovpt., POSTAGE DUE at bottom), OG, HR, a toning spot and light staining, o/w VF \$5775 (\$5005)
 - UF1 (UPSS R1) mint entire, VF \$1100 (\$1750)
 - UF1 (UPSS R2) mint entire, one stain spot o/w VF \$2300 (\$1750)
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From The Editor

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It has been a year since I assumed editorship of The Canal Zone Philatelist following in the path of my four predecessors - Gil Plass, Gary Weiss, Bob Reisinger, and most recently David Leeds.

With the assistance of many of our knowledgeable collecting colleagues, CZP 126-129 have been published. These have described additional areas of ABNCo Canal Zone archive material, together with many new discoveries. The coming year's CZPs will continue with ABNCo archive Type II, booklet panes and postal stationery material together with starting a series on Canal Zone postal rates.

The year in the Canal Zone material auction market for better material has ended very strongly as indicated in the auction report in this issue; let us hope this is an indication of the future and the value of all of our holdings will have healthy increases.

I am very encouraged with the contributions that have been submitted for inclusion in *The Canal Zone Philatelist*. It is a constant struggle coaxing the individuals who "have the knowledge" and or materials to put their thoughts on paper (or e mail). I am always delighted receiving unsolicited materials and being able to read of a new discovery, so please everyone keep your articles coming. Also feel free to forward suggestions on types of articles you would like to see on these pages.

Vice President's Report

(Continued from page 1)

and definitives produced by various printers (in both water activated as well as self-adhesive versions), not to mention souvenir pages, commemorative panels, first day (and last day!) ceremony programs, annual and other special collection albums and of course the latest way to siphon the collector's hobby dollar, uncut press sheets.

"The mind reels when one contemplates the possible subjects that might have been chosen over the last twenty years; sheets of 10, 20 or 50 different animals, birds, fish, insects and flowers (all indigenous to the isthmus of course), famous visitors to the Zone (both human and nautical), a 75th Anniversary of the Canal series and additional heretofore unhonored members of the ICC, past governors of the Canal Zone and even Directors of Posts for various definitives needed for all of the rate changes since 1979.

"The revenue derived from such issues might have rivaled that of the Panama Canal itself and of course, dear friends, much if not most of it would have been harvested from CZSG members.

"Perhaps we should be thankful that the Canal Treaty ended the possibility of any of the foregoing imaginings coming true."

**Visit the
CZSG Web Site**

<http://home.att.net/~bentz/Czsg.htm>

Wrong Cover Booklets

(Continued from page 3)

Of the complete booklets, six have the panes stuck to the interleaving, eleven do not, and the status of two is unknown.

These booklets and covers have been sold at various auctions and in private sales. If someone had attempted, at every available opportunity (of which I am aware) over the period 1970 to 1998, to acquire these items, that person would have had 32 chances to do so. (Some items have been sold more than once; I am also aware of a couple of auction lots for which I have not been able to determine whether the item was or was not the same as one already listed - these are not included).

Now, to the total number of booklets originally produced and distributed; I cannot be certain, but would bet on 28! It clearly has to be more than 14, and since one would expect that the majority was saved, it is doubtful there ever were as many as 42. I am unaware of any reports of any of these booklets having been discovered and destroyed while still in the postal system. That means there are five more that are either out there or have been lost. This is also somewhat corroborated by the fact that no one pane position appears more than twice in that list.

Interestingly, 28 is the same number that was produced of the Type II inverted-center-and-overprint error booklet (Scott No. 39f). But far fewer of these are known today - even though an invert error is considered much more significant by philatelists! I estimate no more than three complete booklets and half a dozen loose panes, plus two identifiable pieces of panes (a single and a block of four) and of course, the "leftover" center block of 16 from one of the error sheets.

Thanks to everyone who helped me by providing information for this survey.

CZSG Meeting, AMERICAS '99

Eleven CZSG members met at the APS AMERICAS '99, February 27, Orlando, FL Stamp Show. There was lively discussion chaired by Bob Karrer. Questions were directed at Karrer and former editor, David Leeds, on developments of the several "Works in Progress". After introduction of the members present the show-and-tell was highlighted by Del Parker's showing of the largest known blocks of the CZ First Issue.

Joe Ross and Leeds showed a preview of an in depth study of Panama Revenues which will include the Panama/Zona del Canal Liquor Stamps. The study will lead to a catalogue of Panama fiscals.

There were no Canal Zone exhibits except for Ray Ireson's *Panama Canal Story* which was; awarded Vermeil in spite of its former Golds and a Grand. Several most interesting CZ/Colombia covers were shown in the Columbia SCADTA exhibits.

An important announcement was relayed from President Jim Crumpacker on the acceptance of CZSG and COPAPHIL at WESTPEX 2000 in San Francisco, April 2000. We, with the Colombia/Panama group are obligated to show 100 frames of Canal Zone, Colombia, and Panama. Paul Ammons already has his application in for his Canal Zone Official Air Mails. CZSG will still need an additional half dozen exhibits. It is time to start now.

The AMERICAS show was an opportunity to become acquainted with the several other sister societies from neighboring Latin American countries.

Reported by Bob Karrer
and David Leeds.

SANDICAL '99 Report By David Leeds

San Diego: interest in the CZSG always generates enthusiastic attendance at our meetings at SANDICAL. A dozen collectors attended with lively discussions, mostly on our Publications. The repeated question was the status of our update of the Stationery Catalogue. Our response was realistic in that.

- 1), the American Bank Note Company issues benefited greatly from acquisition of archive data which is being published preliminarily in installments in our *Canal Zone Philatelist*,
- 2), little additional data can be expected from the other pre-1924 issues, and
- 3), data of the U.S. overprinted and Canal Zone general issues still needs to be extracted from the Post Office Archives.

We were reminded that our efforts toward publication of an updated catalogue was of interest to all postal stationery collectors, not only those of CZSG. Their (UPSS) offer of help was extended to CZSG.

U3-U4 - UX5

By Irwin J. Gibbs,
Postal Stationery Editor

In 1921 Panama and other Latin American countries issued stamps and postal stationery in celebration of the 100th anniversary of their independence from Spain. Panama asked the Canal Zone if it also wanted to commemorate the event, in response, stamps, envelopes and postal cards were ordered by Executive Secretary C.A. McIlvaine.

The order consisted of 50,000 1c postal cards (UX5), 50,000 1c envelopes (U3) and 100,000 2c envelopes (U4). The order was subsequently changed by Mr. McIlvaine to 300,000 of the 2c envelope.

The envelopes and postal cards bear exact reproductions of the same denomination stamps celebrating the 100th anniversary of the colonies independence from Spain and were printed by the American Bank Note Company (ABNCo). The 1c envelope and 1c postal card pictures Jose Vallarino and the 2c envelope pictures the Land Gate of Panama City. The overprint on the envelopes is, however, completely different from that on the stamps and uses the same type font (10 point Ronaldson Foundry) as was used for the words CANAL ZONE of the overprint on Scott 27-30. The change in type from the first envelope issue (U1,U2) was the result of a request from the Canal Zone to the ABNCo to make the overprint type on the envelopes as similar as possible to Scott UX4.

From specimens in the ABNCo archives new information has surfaced. Although no CANAL ZONE specimen for the 1c envelope was included in the archives, there was a Panama specimen with print order F 6782 (Fig. 1).

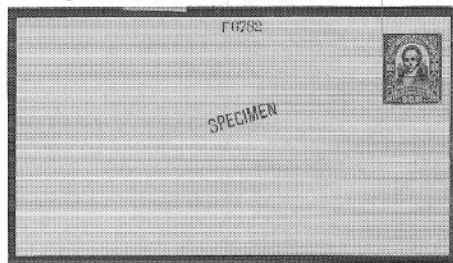


Fig. 1. ABNCo 1c Panama
Specimen envelope F 6782

The first printing of 100,000 2c envelopes with the Canal Zone overprint was assigned order F 6782 the same as the Panama 2c envelope. The first printings were completed on June 4, 1921, and consisted of 50,000 of the 1c envelope and 100,000 of the 2c envelope. These envelopes were delivered in August 1921 and placed on sale November 13, 1921.

The second printing of the 2c envelope consisting of 200,000 envelopes, was assigned by the ABNCo print order F 7113 (Fig. 2). These envelopes were delivered in April 1923.

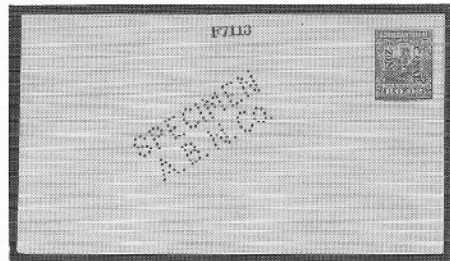


Fig. 2. ABNCo 2c CZ U4.SB
Specimen envelope F 7113

Although no accurate records of what was burned in 1937 exist, it is believed 30,000 of the 1c envelopes were destroyed. None of the 2c envelopes were destroyed.

The 50,000 1c Canal Zone Vallarino postal cards were assigned print order F 6783 (Fig. 3) and were issued along with the rest of the commemorative series on November 13, 1921. A large number of these postal cards was burned in 1937. It has been estimated that between 10,000 and 14,000 copies may have been sold.



Fig. 3. ABNCo 1c CZ UX5.S
Specimen card F 6783

Canal Zone Postal Stationery ABNCo Specimens recovered from the Archives

Scott Cat No.	UPSS No.	CZSG* No.	Denom.	Order No.	Description of Specimen	Number of Specimens
U3	3	—	1c	F 6782	None Discovered	0
U4	4	U4.SA	2c	F 6782	Unpunched, Red Specimen 26.0mm x 5.3mm)	1
U4	4	U4.SB	2c	F 7113	Punched: SPECIMEN A.B.N.Co. (70mm x 29.5mm)	5
UX5	S12	UX5.S	1c	F 6783	Unpunched, Red Specimen (26.0mm x 5.3mm)	4

* CZP 117:39

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